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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

GROUP: 1657

Keisuke FURUICHI, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/574,283

EXAMINER: LILLING, HERBERT J.

FILED: March 31, 2006

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING 1,4-DIHYDOXY-2-NAPHTHOIC ACID

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 14, 2008, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1-3 (drawn to a process for producing 1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphtoic acid comprising initiating the culture of 1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphtoic acid producing bacteria belonging to propionic acid bacteria under anaerobic conditions and culturing the bacteria under aeration into the medium when the concentration of a carbon source in the medium is 3.5% by mass or less), for examination.

Applicants also provisionally elect, for examination purposes only, the following species:

- a) Food and beverages for improving abdominal discomfort comprising a composition comprising 1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphtoic acid obtained by the process of claims 1-3.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.